

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph [0003] with the following:

*(a)* [0003] Reduction of the illumination of a specific spatial region of a specimen, by means of a stop, is more ~~frequency~~ frequently being used in a variety of applications so that light sensitive surfaces of the specimen can be protected from excessively strong radiation. These stops are generally configured to swing into and out of an illuminating beam thereby providing complete and/or partial darkening of the illuminating beam in a specific spatial region which is to be protected from the light.

Please replace paragraphs [0029]-[0030] with the following:

*(a)* [0029] FIG. 1 symbolically shows the overall construction of an optical viewing device, which may be, for example, a surgical stereomicroscope. The viewing device 30 includes a light source 1, such as, for example, a lamp or the end of an optical waveguide. The light source 1 produces an illuminating beam 2 which is directed through an illuminating optical system comprising two lenses, 3a, 3b. A spectral filter 4 is preferably positioned between the lenses 3a, 3b of the optical-system-4 system. However, it is to be understood that the spectral filter 4 could, for example, be positioned between the upper lens 3a and the light source 1.

[0030] A main objective 6 is positioned between the lower lens 3b and a specimen which may be, for example, a human eye comprising a pupil 7, an iris 8, and an eyeball 9. As a result of the spectral filter 4, the a portion the portion of the cross-sectional area of the illuminating beam 2 is diffused into a reduced-light intensity beam 5. The reduced-light intensity beam 5 is transmitted through the main objective 6 to a specific region of the specimen which may be subject to injury caused by light intensity and/or specific wavelengths of light. In addition, in response to the illuminating beam 2 and the reduced-light intensity beam 5, the specimen produces a beam 10 which is directed through the optical viewing device to an eyepiece 11 of a viewer 12.